NATURAL NEWS

The Field Museum
Exploring
The Earth And Its
People

WEEKLY STAFF NEWSLETTER
March 27, 1998

COLOSSAL FOSSIL TOOTH VISITS CHICAGO DENTAL SOCIETY

The Midwinter Meeting of the Chicago Dental Society had a special treat as Peter Laraba (Education) from the Education Department, ventured to McCormick Place Lakeside to display The Field Museum's newly acquired tooth of the Tyrannosaurus rex. During the demonstration in the Press Room, numerous dental editors and writers, and several lay editors as well, heard Peter describe the tooth, how it was found and preserved, and future plans. His presentation of our colossal fossil tooth was among the highlights of the Press Room activities.

TIME SHEETS DUE -- APRIL 9 AT NOON

Due to the bank holiday April 10, 1998 (Good Friday), Payroll must receive all timesheets on Thursday, April 9, 1998 by 12 noon. (Good Friday is *not* a staff holiday.) Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

FITNESS CLASS REMINDER: Fitness classes are held Tuesday and Thursday evenings: 5:15 p.m. until 6:15 p.m. in the Geology exhibit next to Tibet. There will be *no class* on the following dates: Tuesday, March 31 and Thursday, April 2.

BILL NYE, THE SCIENCE GUY TO VISIT FIELD MUSEUM

As part of the "It's Wild in Chicago" festival, Bill Nye, "the Science Guy" will make a special presentation focused on El Niño geared to all ages. Our own Michael Dillon from the Botany Department will join him onstage to talk about his El Niño research in Peru and Chile. Tickets are selling quickly for this event on Saturday, April 4 at 1:00 p.m. A block of tickets has been reserved for volunteers and staff; you are entitled to one ticket for yourself and one for a guest (two tickets per staff member/volunteer). You may purchase tickets at the member's rate for any additional guests. Please call x854 to reserve your tickets by Monday, March 30 at noon.

We have also reserved blocks of tickets for the following lectures:

Tuesday, March 31, 6:00 p.m., "Olmsted in Chicago" by Victoria Ranney

Tuesday, May 19, 6:00 p.m., "Supersonic Dinosaurs" by Nathan Myhrvold

Monday, June 22, 6:30 p.m., Colleagues of Varian Fry: "The Mission in France," Panel Discussion

CHICAGO WILDERNESS -- INVITATION TO A CELEBRATION

"It's Wild in Chicago" begins on Saturday, April 4, with a full day of activities devoted to local nature and to the second anniversary of Chicago Wilderness. Events include:

11:00 a.m.	Launching of Natural Wonders -- Stanley Field Hall
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Chicago Wilderness partners display -- Stanley Field Hall
4:00 - 5:30 p.m.	A. Watson Armour III Chicago Wilderness Colloquium, highlighting some of the accomplishments of the partnership in its first two years -- Lecture Hall I.
5:30-6:30 p.m.	Reception -- Stanley Field Hall

Bring your friends and family to the special exhibit, in Stanley Field Hall, focusing on Chicago area native communities, hands on activities for children, and entertainment for the whole family. And if you're interested in the Region's natural areas and restoration/management issues, you'll also enjoy the Colloquium.

LAMMERS RETURNS FROM PERU

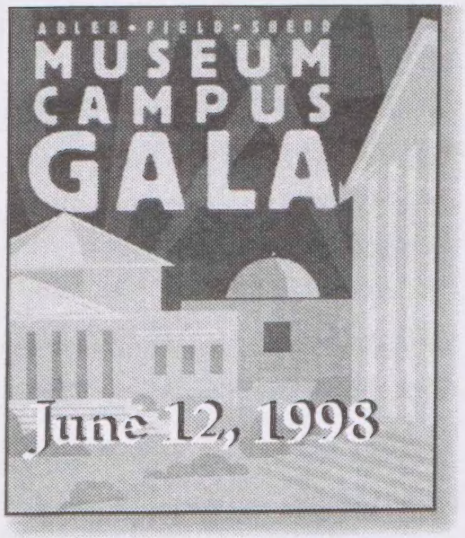
Tom Lammers (Botany) has just returned from a week-long visit to Amazonian Peru, where he was an instructor for a course at Miami University entitled "Natural History of the Amazon." This course, led by botanist W. Hardy Eshbaugh, was intended to acquaint graduate students with the ecology and biotic diversity of lowland rainforest in the Neotropics. The course was conducted at the Amazonian Center for Environmental Education and Research (ACEER) and adjacent ExplorNapo Camp, 100 miles upriver from Iquitos Peru, on a tributary of the Rio Napo. ACEER is world-famous for its quarter-mile long Canopy Walkway, a catwalk suspended 100 feet or more above the forest floor, which permits close study of the numerous plants and animals that dwell in the canopy of the rainforest. It is also renowned for its extraordinary diversity of woody species -- among the highest documented anywhere. Tom's instructional duties primarily focused on angiosperm families and their characteristics. Tom taught at Miami before coming to Field Museum, and has maintained close professional ties with the faculty there. There was also a familiar face among the students participating in the course: **Julie Barcelona** of the Philippines, who took part in the Advanced Training Program in the Conservation of Biological Diversity at Field Museum during the summer of 1994.

SPRING SYMPOSIUM REMINDER!

You must sign-up by April 1 to receive the discounted registration price ($15). After that date it will cost $20 for staff/students/volunteers. Drop your registration form in the intra-museum mail c/o Geology Department, Spring Symposium. If you have lost your form and don't have access to another one via our web site, call **Pamela Austin** (x295) to receive a new one. Thanks!

We extend our deepest sympathies to **Susan VandenBosch** on the passing of her father.

The Museum Campus Celebration



On Friday, June 12, 1998 the Museum Campus, in concert with the Chicago Park District, is hosting an Opening Gala Celebration. This is an *historic* evening celebrating the completion of the relocation of Lake Shore Drive and the creation of a *new* park — MUSEUM CAMPUS CHICAGO — that will link our three institutions. This unified effort between the Field, Adler and Shedd creates one of the country's finest urban destinations. The Opening Gala will be a part of a slate of activities to run throughout the summer for our visitors and members.

We need your help in making this night an evening to remember!!!

There are over 100 volunteer opportunities that need to be filled. We are asking staff from the three institutions to assist us in making the Opening Celebration run smoothly.

Positions:

- Welcoming
- Trolley Docents - History and Evening Program
- Reception
- Circulation & Direction
- Gift Bag Distribution
- Coat Check

Contact Cindy Andresen or Dana Cushingberry at ext. 870.

Commitment:

Becoming a volunteer means that you attend one general meeting the week of April 20th, a sub committee meeting the week of May 11th and report for duty on June 12th at 3:00 p.m. The Human Resources Department suggests you check with your supervisor about the requested 3:00 p.m. walk-through on the day of the party. There will be plenty of positions to help for those in public service areas who cannot begin until after we close at 5:00 p.m. (Food will be provided at ALL meetings and parking will be covered on June 12)

What you get for helping out with this celebration?

- Being a part of a Chicago Historical Event!!
- Dinner
- Fireworks

How to sign up to Volunteer?

Contact Cindy Andresen or Dana Cushingberry at ext. 870.

More information will be provided once you sign up to volunteer.

CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT
COME OUT AND PLAY

Chicago Park District Green Team

What is the Green Team program?

The Chicago Park District's Green Team is a corps of volunteers who travel the Lakefront and parks, communicating to the public about basic environmental care and motivating patrons to take an active role in preserving their parks.

Who is eligible to become a Green Team Volunteer?

Adults, 18 years and older, who can make a weekly commitment of two hours from May to October, are eligible to participate in the program. After completion of the Chicago Park District application process and orientation, volunteers will receive their route and assignments.

What will Green Team Volunteers do?

Green Team volunteers will travel by bike, foot, or in-line skate throughout the Lakefront parks to promote productive, responsible use of Chicago's parks. They provide printed materials on proper charcoal disposal, litter prevention and recycling, and hand out trash bags to picnickers. Volunteers report general environmental needs, property damage and vandalism in the parks. Volunteers also have access to information on park programs, the history of the parks and local attractions.

Green Team Volunteer benefits

Volunteers are a valuable part of the Chicago Park District team, and will be recognized for their efforts. Basic environmental education classes will be offered at participating parks. Volunteers may receive free passes and discounts from participating local merchants, and a recognition party will be held at the end of the summer.

How do I become a Green Team Volunteer?

To receive an application for the Green Team or for information on other environmental opportunities, please call:

Green Team Hotline
Lisa Bodey
312/747-2121

or write to:

South Shore Cultural Center
c/o Lisa Bodey/Green Team
7059 South Shore Drive
Chicago, IL 60649

Green Team GOALS

- Create a visible presence & unified message promoting the productive & responsible use of Chicago's parks
- Educate park users on basic environmental care: proper charcoal disposal to save trees, litter prevention and recycling
- Assist patrons with directions, response to inquiries and guide them to attractions in the parks
- Inform the public of recreational, cultural and educational programs offered by the parks
- Maintain safe areas by immediately reporting property damage, vandalism and general park needs
- Build knowledge by offering educational opportunities to program participants
- Promote ongoing environmental activities within the parks and neighboring communities

CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT
COME OUT AND PLAY

Chicago Park District's

Green Team

Volunteer Orientation Dates

WHO: Adults,18 years of age and older

WHAT: Educate park patrons on tree care, recycling & litter prevention; participate in community environmental projects and workshops

WHERE: Travel by foot, bike or in-line skate along Chicago's Lakefront and parks

WHEN: 2 hours/week from May-September
(Mon-Fri 4:00-8:00 p.m., Sat-Sun 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.)

Choose from **ONE** of the following orientation dates:

DATE:	TIME:	LOCATION:
April 28	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Jackson Park Field House 6401 S. Stony Island Ave.
May 2	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Loyola Park Field House 1230 W. Greenleaf Ave.
May 2	2:00-4:00 p.m.	Calumet Park Field House 9801 S. Avenue G
May 9	10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Daley-Bicentennial Plaza 337 E. Randolph Ave.
May 12	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Lincoln Park Cultural Center 2045 N. Lincoln Park West
May 20	6:30-8:30 p.m.	Margate Park Field House

To sign-up for an orientation session or for more information, call the GREEN TEAM HOTLINE at:

312/747-2121

Education continued from page 1

Thursday, June 25, 5:30 p.m., "Why Did They Act As They Did? The Motivations of Holocaust Rescuers" by Elliot Lefkovitz

Again, please call x854 to make a reservation. Full descriptions for these programs are in the Spring Field Guide brochure. You can pick up a copy in the Education Department.

TAXES DONE YET? April 15, 1998 fast approaching!

As the tax deadline rapidly approaches, the following information may be helpful to you.

Electronic Filing: Electronic filing allows you to file your return more quickly than through the mail (which means that any refund owed you arrives faster!) and some errors and missing information are spotted immediately. You can electronically file through a tax professional, some local banks, your personal computer with IRS-accepted tax preparation software, or you may be able to use TeleFile which allows you to file over the telephone.

Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC): EITC may entitle you to a larger refund if you earned wages in 1997 and your income was less than $29,290 if you had two or more qualifying children or less than $25,760 if you had only one qualifying child. If you do not have a qualifying child, earned less than $9,770, are between the ages of 25 and 65, not eligible to be a dependent and have a main home in the United States for more that half the year, you may also be eligible. Note: The IRS will be looking closely at EITC claims this year, so call the IRS for more information on qualification.

Where to go for help:

Forms	Visit your post office or library or call 1-800-829-3676
Questions	On-line http://www.irs.ustreas.gov or call 1-800-829-1040

PBS SPECIAL SERIES ON ADDICTIONS

On March 29, 30, and 31, PBS will be premiering a series entitled "Moyers on Addiction." This five part series will address *this nation's number one health problem* and confront specific aspects of addiction and recovery. If you would like further information about the program, please call **Carole Kasarda** (x529).

The *Natural News* is edited by **Carolyn Klyce** in the President's Office. The deadline for all submissions (in WordPerfect on floppy disk or via email to klyce@fmnh.org) is Tuesday at noon. Printed on recycled paper.

They're in the exhibits! The stores! The food service!

They're....OUR VISITORS!!!

What do we really know about them?

Come join us for our 2nd Audience Research Initiative brown bag lunch and find out what we know (and don't know) about Field Museum visitors: Who are they? Why do they come? How long do they stay? What do they like to do while they are here? How can we use this information to help create better experiences for them?

This informal session will be divided into three parts: we will present some background information about what we have learned from past audience studies that have been conducted at The Field Museum and at other museums, present the brand new audience study that is just beginning, and finish up with an open discussion addressing questions and comments from the audience.

Grab something to eat and come participate in our 2nd monthly

Audience Research Initiative Brown Bag Lunch

THURSDAY, APRIL 2ND @ 11:30 a.m.

CLASSROOM 1, Ground Floor

Our guest speakers this month are:

Owen Shapiro
Senior Analyst
Leo J. Shapiro and Associates, Inc.

Deborah L. Perry, Ph.D.
Director
Selinda Research Associates

Owen Shapiro has worked at Leo J. Shapiro and Associates since 1984. He is currently responsible for the conception and execution of both qualitative and quantitative research projects. Mr. Shapiro has completed hundreds of research projects for clients in a range of industries and is currently working with The Field Museum on the 1998 Audience Research Project.

Deborah Perry founded Selinda Research Associates in 1989. SRA provides research, evaluation, exhibit and program development, and training and professional development services to museums and other informal educational settings. With a background in instructional development and naturalistic research methodologies, Deborah and her associates work with museums to facilitate the development of high quality visitor experiences.

For more information, please call Deborah Perry at 986-1134.